



MONTANA  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATION

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November 1, 2005

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Recommendation of Jason Williams for Universal Service  
Administrative Corporation Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21  
and 96-45.**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA) strongly encourages the appointment of Mr. Jason Williams to the USAC Board of Directors. MTA represents large and small, commercial and cooperative telecommunications service providers providing rural local exchange and other telecommunications services throughout Montana.

Mr. Williams would represent a crucial segment of the telecommunications industry—rural telecom providers—and a key constituency of USAC, combining a variety of assets we believe would be extremely valuable to USAC's Board. Mr. Williams brings significant legal, regulatory, public policy, and operational experience to the table. Moreover, he's an extremely personable professional who is delightful to work with.

Jason is currently an attorney with the Missoula, Montana, law firm of Christian Samson Jones and Chisholm, PLLC, where he focuses on rural telecommunications issues. Previously, he has worked as Manager – Regulatory Affairs for XO Communications (formerly Nextlink Communications) where he helped formulate much of the company's regulatory policy during its first three years of operations. Mr. Williams also worked briefly as a Business Development Manager for NeuStar, Inc. While attending law school, he interned for the Blackfoot Telecommunications Group in Missoula where he assisted the company's general counsel with a wide variety of legal and regulatory matters.

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Significantly, Mr. Williams served as Special Assistant to FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin in Washington, DC, where he advised the commissioner on a variety of wireline, wireless and media issues. It is in this capacity that most of Montana's independent telecom leaders, and no doubt telecom execs from across the nation, came to respect and admire Jason's grasp of telecommunications policy and his skill at understanding and balancing the complicated relationships that characterize our industry.

Mr. Williams has a deep commitment to ensuring all of America has access to affordable, quality telecommunications services. His varied experience and profound intellect make him an outstanding candidate for the USAC Board.

Again, MTA strongly recommends Mr. Williams for appointment to the USAC Board of Directors. Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or MTA or I can be of any further assistance.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey A. Feiss, General Manager  
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